

Hi Everyone,

It's that time of year again when the Willapa Bay fisheries staff will be providing in-season weekly fishery updates using the Willapa Bay email ([WillapaBay@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:WillapaBay@dfw.wa.gov)). If you have any questions or comments regarding any of the information provided through these emails for the 2021 season, please reply to this email.

Recreational Marine Area Fishery:

The Willapa Bay recreational marine fishery opened on June 19, 2021 and continued through July 31, 2021 under Ocean Area 2 rules. Attached is the summary for June and July.

During this timeframe, our recreational creel monitoring began on opening day, June 19, and included the Tokeland boat launch and marina. We have had a slow start to the 2021 salmon fishing season as effort has been significantly less than it was last year during this same timeframe. This may be due to several factors including salmon not available inside Willapa Bay during this early part of the season, few fishable tides (high tide in the middle of the day or big tidal exchanges between low and high water), and/or fish not being caught in the ocean. There have only been a few days in the last six weeks when high water occurred first thing in the morning (the most favored tide). The midday high tide may have contributed to less fish biting, which may have discouraged anglers. We did observe an increase in effort during week 30 (July 19 – 25) compared to previous weeks so far this season, which resulted in the most fish landed in any week for June or July. There were an estimated 61 boats fishing during week 30, with a total of 17 Chinook landed and kept. At this point, only a few coho have been estimated to have been caught in June and July.

If you are interested in any data collected by the Ocean Sampling Program for Ocean Areas 1 – 4, you can find that data on our website at [Ocean sport quota report | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#)

As we move through the fall 2021 season, we will be including information and data on our recreational catch estimates for Willapa Bay marine area 2.1, any rack return information we have from our hatcheries within Willapa Bay, commercial salmon fishery updates, spawning ground survey updates, and any other information/data we think is pertinent to the in-season management of Willapa Bay fisheries.

As always, in-season data is preliminary and subject to change.

All data provided through these weekly email updates for the months of August and September will be posted to the Willapa Bay Marine Area 2.1 Recreational Creel Monitoring page of our website listed below.

As mentioned above, if you have any comments or questions regarding any of the information provided in these emails, please submit your comments to [WillapaBay@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:WillapaBay@dfw.wa.gov).

If you know of anyone who might be interested in receiving these in-season updates or any other information we send out regarding Willapa Bay fisheries, please forward this email and have them reply to [WillapaBay@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:WillapaBay@dfw.wa.gov) stating they would like to be added to our email distribution list.

Thank you and Fish On! ><(((°>

Barbara McClellan

Willapa Bay Fisheries Management

## WDFW Region 6 Montesano

Online reference links you may be interested in:

Willapa Bay Marine Area 2.1 Recreational Creel

Monitoring: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/reports/creel/willapa-bay>

Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor (non-treaty) Commercial Salmon Fisheries (regulations and landed catch): <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/gillnet#information>

# **In-season Estimates of Effort and Salmon Catch**

updated 8/10/2021

## **2021 Willapa Bay Marine Area Recreational Mark Selective Chinook and Coho Fishery**

All data is preliminary and subject to change

Marked = Adipose fin clipped

Unmarked = Adipose fin not clipped

|                              |      |                 |                                |           | Catch Estimates |                  |        |               |        |
|------------------------------|------|-----------------|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|------------------|--------|---------------|--------|
| Month                        | Week | Dates           | Regulation                     | Estimated |                 | Retained Chinook |        | Retained Coho |        |
|                              |      |                 |                                | Boats     | Anglers         | Unmarked         | Marked | Unmarked      | Marked |
| June<br>(Ocean Area 2 rules) | 25   | Jun 19 & 20     | No Coho retention allowed      | 8         | 26              | 0                | 0      | 0             | 0      |
|                              | 26   | June 21 - 27    |                                | 9         | 22              | 0                | 0      | 0             | 1      |
|                              | 27   | June 28 - Jul 4 |                                | 13        | 32              | 0                | 0      | 0             | 0      |
| July<br>(Ocean Area 2 rules) | 28   | July 5 - 11     | No wild Coho retention allowed | 26        | 55              | 0                | 0      | 0             | 0      |
|                              | 29   | July 12 - 18    |                                | 26        | 63              | 0                | 2      | 0             | 3      |
|                              | 30   | July 19 - 25    |                                | 61        | 135             | 9                | 8      | 0             | 0      |
|                              | 31   | July 26 - Aug 1 |                                | 20        | 44              | 0                | 3      | 0             | 4      |
| Total to Date                |      |                 |                                | 163       | 377             | 9                | 13     | 0             | 8      |

For June and July, dockside sampling was conducted only at the Tokeland boat launch and marina

| Estimated Willapa origin Chinook Impacts |        |
|--|--------|
| Unmarked                                 | Marked |
| 0  | 0      |
| 0  | 0      |
| 0  | 0      |
| 0  | 0      |
| 0  | 1      |
| 3  | 3      |
| 0  | 1      |
| 3  | 4      |

# 2021 Willapa Bay Origin PreSeason Recreational Data

Preliminary/Draft  
Updated 8/10/2021

| Willapa Bay Natural-Origin Fall Chinook |             |                          |                      |                  |                    |                  | Willapa Bay Hatchery-Origin Fall Chinook |                      |                  |                    |                  |
|---|-------------|--------------------------|----------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|--|----------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Mgmt Wk                                 | Date        | Harvest Rate Proportions | Preseason Prediction |                  | In-season Estimate |                  | Harvest Rate Proportions                 | Preseason Prediction |                  | In-season Estimate |                  |
|   |             |                          | NOR                  | Cumulative Total | WB Origin          | Cumulative Total |  | HOR                  | Cumulative Total | WB Origin          | Cumulative Total |
| 25                                      | 6/19 - 6/20 | 0.0338                   | 0                    | 0                | 0                  | 0                | 0.0048                                   | 0                    | 0                | 0                  | 0                |
| 26                                      | 6/21 - 6/27 | 0.0338                   | 0                    | 0                | 0                  | 0                | 0.0048                                   | 0                    | 0                | 0                  | 0                |
| 27                                      | 6/28 - 7/4  | 0.0338                   | 3                    | 3                | 0                  | 0                | 0.0048                                   | 4                    | 4                | 0                  | 0                |
| 28                                      | 7/5 - 7/11  | 0.0204                   | 2                    | 4                | 0                  | 0                | 0.0072                                   | 6                    | 10               | 0                  | 0                |
| 29                                      | 7/12 - 7/18 | 0.0970                   | 7                    | 11               | 0                  | 0                | 0.0089                                   | 8                    | 18               | 1                  | 1                |
| 30                                      | 7/19 - 7/25 | 0.0532                   | 4                    | 15               | 3                  | 3                | 0.0312                                   | 27                   | 44               | 3                  | 3                |
| 31                                      | 7/26 - 8/1  | 0.1146                   | 8                    | 24               | 0                  | 3                | 0.0278                                   | 24                   | 68               | 1                  | 4                |
| 32                                      | 8/2 - 8/8   | 0.0807                   | 6                    | 30               |                    | 3                | 0.1114                                   | 95                   | 163              |                    | 4                |
| 33                                      | 8/9 - 8/15  | 0.0853                   | 6                    | 36               |                    | 3                | 0.1449                                   | 124                  | 287              |                    | 4                |
| 34                                      | 8/16 - 8/22 | 0.1363                   | 10                   | 46               |                    | 3                | 0.2190                                   | 187                  | 474              |                    | 4                |
| 35                                      | 8/23 - 8/29 | 0.1552                   | 11                   | 57               |                    | 3                | 0.2398                                   | 205                  | 678              |                    | 4                |
| 36                                      | 8/30 - 9/5  | 0.0755                   | 6                    | 63               |                    | 3                | 0.1169                                   | 100                  | 778              |                    | 4                |
| 37                                      | 9/6 - 9/12  | 0.0791                   | 6                    | 69               |                    | 3                | 0.0634                                   | 54                   | 832              |                    | 4                |
| 38                                      | 9/13 - 9/19 | 0.0178                   | 1                    | 70               |                    | 3                | 0.0211                                   | 18                   | 850              |                    | 4                |
| 39                                      | 9/20 - 9/26 | 0.0384                   | 3                    | 73               |                    | 3                | 0.0013                                   | 1                    | 851              |                    | 4                |
| 40                                      | 9/27 - 9/30 | 0.0128                   | 1                    | 74               |                    | 3                | 0.0010                                   | 1                    | 852              |                    | 4                |
|   |             |                          | 74                   |                  | 3                  | 0.038            |  |                      |                  | 4                  | 0.005            |